

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 11156 310007Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 INR-05 IO-06 EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0930

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 11156

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: UK LIAISON PERSONNEL IN RHODESIA

1. PURUSANT TO INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL STATE 206693, I AGAIN RAISED WITH DAVID OWEN THE QUESTION OF HIS INTENTION TO LEAVE FCO PERSONNEL IN SALISBURY. I MADE THE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL STRESSING THAT SECRETARY VANCE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS PLANS. OWEN SAID THAT HE NATURALLY ATTACHED GREAT WEIGHT TO THE SECRETARY'S OBJECTIONS, HOWEVER, HE WAS TOO FAR COMMITTED TO TURN BACK. NEVERTHELESS, HE PROMISED ME THAT HIS GROUP WOULD NOT BE DESIGNATED "LIAISON OFFICE" AND THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF A FAVORABLE RHODESIAN RESPONSE TO OUR INITIATIVE THE PERSONNEL WOULD NOT STAY THERE FOR ANY EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME. AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE SAID, SMITH HIMSELF HAD RAISED SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE PERSONNEL, SAYING THAT IF THEY STAYED MORE THAN A FEW DAYS A QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY WOULD ARISE.

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2. HAVING NOW MADE OUR CASE QUITE STRONGLY, WE THINK WE SHOULD LET THE MATTER REST. IT IS CLEARLY OWEN'S INTENTION TO USE THESE PEOPLE AS PART OF A PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT AIMED AT INFLUENCING RHODESIAN OPINION. AS SUCH THEIR PRESENCE ON A TEMPORARY BASIS COULD PROVE USEFUL.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE TWO PEOPLE ALREADY IN SALISBURY, OWEN HAS ALSO DISPATCHED PATRICK LAVER OF THE FCO TO SALISBURY. LAVER HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO MEET ON WEDNESDAY WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA AND THE REV. SITHOLE IN ORDER TO BRIEF THEM IN GENERAL ON THE INITIATIVE. OWEN IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED TO DISCOURAGE SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA FROM MAKING ANY COMMITMENTS TO SMITH WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBLE INTERNAL OPTION PRIOR TO THEIR HAVING MET WITH US.
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Message Attributes

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